

**INTEGRATED CIRCUIT AND  
TESTING METHOD FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

5       The present invention relates to an integrated circuit and a testing method for an integrated circuit.

FIG. 2 shows the entire configuration of a conventional integrated circuit. In FIG. 2, a reference numeral 14 denotes a CPU and a reference numeral 13 denotes an integrated circuit, which includes an address decoder 10, a first logic circuit 11 and a second logic circuit 12 having the same function as the first logic circuit 11.

10       The first logic circuit 11 has one or more logic functions and includes a register 11a to which an arbitrary address is previously allocated, so that it can work as an adder when the value stored in the register 11a is "0" and work as a subtracter when the value is "1". When an address signal s200a corresponding to the register 11a is output from the CPU 14, the address decoder 10 decodes the address signal s200a so as to output a first address select signal (enable signal) s11 to the register 11a. The register 11a receives a data signal s200b output from the CPU 14 and is set to the value of the data signal s200b, so that the first logic circuit 11 can perform the operation defined by the register 11a and output the result to a signal line s11a. The first

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logic circuit 11 can be tested by monitoring the value of this output on the signal line s11a.

Similarly, the second logic circuit 12 has the same function as the first logic circuit 11, and includes a register 12a to which an arbitrary address different from that of the register 11a of the first logic circuit 11 is previously allocated, so that the second logic circuit 12 can work as an adder when the value stored in the register 12a is "0" and work as a subtracter when the value is "1". When the CPU 14 outputs an address signal s200a corresponding to the register 12a, the address decoder 10 decodes the address signal s200a so as to output an address select signal (enable signal) s12 to the register 12a. The register 12a of the second logic circuit 12 is set to the value of a data signal s200b output from the CPU 14. The second logic circuit 12 performs the operation defined by the register 12a and outputs the result to a signal line s12a. The second logic circuit 2 can be tested by monitoring the value of this output on the signal line s12a.

In this manner, in the conventional testing method, all logic circuits included in an integrated circuit to be tested are made to perform a normal operation repeatedly one by one so as to monitor the output values of the respective logic circuits.

Recently, in accordance with the increased degree of

integration of LSIs, a logic circuit is used as a highly general-purpose IP (intellectual property) in fabrication of an LSI in order to improve the design efficiency.

However, when an integrated circuit including a plurality of logic circuits having the same function as in the aforementioned conventional integrated circuit is tested, it is necessary to successively test the respective logic circuits one by one, which disadvantageously requires a long time for the testing.

Furthermore, when a configuration for enabling simultaneous testing of a plurality of logic circuits is employed, there arises a problem that a large number of test pins are necessary for externally monitoring output signals of the respective logic circuits.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the invention is reducing time required for testing by simultaneously testing logic circuits having the same function. In addition, another object of the invention is providing a configuration of an integrated circuit capable of being tested without using a test pin.

In order to achieve the objects, the testing method of this invention utilizes the IDDQ testing, namely, a test using correlation exhibited between the presence of a physical defect in a circuit and a rise of a supply current

of the circuit in a steady state (IDD quiescent current), so that circuit blocks having the same function can be simultaneously tested.

Specifically the integrated circuit of this invention includes at least two logic circuits including a first logic circuit and a second logic circuit having the same function as the first logic circuit; and a direction circuit for directing operation or halt of the first and second logic circuits, and the direction circuit directs, in normal mode, the operation of one of the first and second logic circuits based on an externally supplied select signal, and directs, in testing mode, simultaneous operation of the first and second logic circuits when the select signal is a signal for selecting the first or second logic circuit.

The integrated circuit of this invention preferably further includes a first output circuit for receiving an output of the first logic circuit; a second output circuit for receiving an output of the second logic circuit; and a signal line for transferring both the outputs of the first and second output circuits, and the first and second output circuits enter an enable state in response to an externally supplied testing mode signal.

Furthermore, in the integrated circuit of this invention, each of the first and second logic circuits preferably performs a logic operation corresponding to a

function according to an externally supplied function signal when the operation thereof is directed by the direction circuit.

The testing method of this invention for an integrated circuit composed of at least two logic circuits including a first logic circuit and a second logic circuit having the same function as the first logic circuit, includes the steps of simultaneously operating the first and second logic circuits; transferring outputs of the first and second logic circuits to one signal line; measuring a value of a supply current flowing through the signal line; and determining whether the first and second logic circuits are defective or nondefective based on the measured value of the supply current.

Therefore, according to the invention, both the two logic circuits having the same function are directed by the direction circuit to simultaneously operate in the testing mode, and hence, testing time can be reduced owing to the simultaneous operation. In particular, when an integrated circuit to be tested includes three or more logic circuits having the same function, the effect to reduce the testing time is remarkably exhibited.

Furthermore, according to the invention, the outputs of the two logic circuits simultaneously operated in the testing mode are output through the first and second output circuits

to one signal line. Each of the first and second output  
circuits is provided with an H level supply source and an L  
level supply source, so that the H level supply source can be  
connected to the signal line when the output of the  
5 corresponding logic circuit is at an H level and that the L  
level supply source can be connected to the signal line when  
the output is at an L level. Accordingly, in the case where  
the simultaneously operated two logic circuits are both  
nondefective and their outputs have the same value, the H  
10 level supply source of one output circuit and the L level  
supply source of the other output circuit are not short-  
circuited, resulting in allowing no current to flow through  
the signal line. On the other hand, in the case where one of  
the logic circuits is defective, the short-circuit is caused,  
15 resulting in allowing an excessive current to flow through  
the signal line. As a result, it can be determined whether  
the logic circuits are defective or nondefective by measuring  
the current flowing through the signal line. Accordingly,  
internal circuits of an integrated circuit can be tested  
20 without providing test pins as in the conventional technique.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram for showing the entire  
configuration of an integrated circuit according to an  
25 embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. 2 is a block diagram for showing the entire configuration of a conventional integrated circuit.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an integrated circuit according to the embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 1, a reference numeral 15 denotes an integrated circuit, which includes an address decoder 10, a first logic circuit 11, a second logic circuit 12 having the same function as the first logic circuit 11, a third logic circuit 13 and a fourth logic circuit 14. The third and fourth logic circuits 13 and 14 have the same function, which is different from the function of the first and second logic circuits 11 and 12.

Also, the integrated circuit 15 includes first, second, third and fourth try state buffers 11b, 12b, 13b and 14b. The try state buffers 11b through 14b are respectively connected to output signal lines s11a through s14a of the first through fourth logic circuits 11 through 14 at their inputs and are commonly connected to a separately provided signal line 16 at their outputs. Although not shown in the drawing, each of the try state buffers 11b through 14b is provided with an H level supply source for outputting an H level signal and an L level supply source for outputting an L

level signal.

A reference numeral 17 denotes a power unit for supplying power to the integrated circuit 15. A current measuring unit 18 is connected to a supply line 17a extending from the power unit 17 to a supply terminal 15a of the integrated circuit 15, so as to measure a current flowing through the supply line 17a. The signal line 16 is connected to the supply line 17a through a variety of paths not shown.

In normal mode in which the integrated circuit 15 performs the normal operation, a testing mode signal s200c input to the address decoder 10 is fixed to "00", in first testing mode in which the first and second logic circuits 11 and 12 are tested, the testing mode signal s200c is fixed to "01", and in second testing mode in which the third and fourth logic circuits 13 and 14 are tested, the testing mode signal s200c is fixed to "10".

The first logic circuit 11 has a register 11a to which an arbitrary address is previously allocated, so that it can work as, for example, an adder when the value stored in the register 11a is "0" and work as, for example, a subtracter when the value is "1". In the normal mode, when an address signal (select signal) s200a corresponding to the register 11a is input to the integrated circuit 15, the address decoder (direction circuit) 10 decodes the address signal s200a, so as to output a first address select signal (enable



signal) **s11** alone for directing the operation of the first logic circuit **11** alone and directing halt of the second through fourth logic circuits **12** through **14**. In the thus operated first logic circuit **11**, the register **11a** having  
5 received the enable signal **s11** is set to the value of an input data signal (function signal) **s200b**. When the set value is "0", the first logic circuit **11** works as an adder, so as to output the result to the signal line **s11a**. When the set value is "1", the first logic circuit **11** works as a  
10 subtracter, so as to output the result to the signal line **s11a**. At this point, the data on the signal line **s11a** is also input to the try state buffer **11b**, but the signal line **16** is in a high impedance state because the testing mode signal **s200c** is at the L level.

15 Similarly, the second logic circuit **12** includes a register **12a** to which an arbitrary address different from that of the register **11a** of the first logic circuit **11** is previously allocated, so as to have the same function as the first logic circuit **11**. In the normal mode, when an address  
20 signal **s200a** corresponding to the register **12a** is input, the address decoder **10** decodes the address signal **s200a**, so as to output an address select signal (enable signal) **s12** alone for directing the operation of the second logic circuit **12** alone. The register signal **12a** having received the enable signal **s12**  
25 is set to the value of an input data signal **s200b**. When the

set value is "0", the second logic circuit 12 works as an adder so as to output the result to the signal line s12a. When the set value is "1", the second logic circuit 12 works as a subtracter, so as to output the result to the signal line s12a. At this point, the data on the signal line s12a is also input to the try state buffer 12b, but the signal line 16 is in a high impedance state because the testing mode signal s200c is at the L level.

On the other hand, in the first testing mode of the integrated circuit 15, when an address signal s200a corresponding to the register 11a or 12a of the first or second logic circuit 11 or 12 is input, the address decoder 10 decodes the address signal s200a, so as to output both the two address select signals (enable signals) s11 and s12 for directing the simultaneous operation of the first and second logic circuits 11 and 12. In the thus simultaneously operated two logic circuits 11 and 12, the registers 11a and 12a are set to the value of an input data signal s200b, and hence, the first logic circuit 11 and the second logic circuit 12 simultaneously work as the same adder or subtracter.

The first try state buffer (first output circuit) 11b and the second try state buffer (second output circuit) 12b enter an enable state in response to the testing mode signal s200c having the value "01", so as to output the data on the

two signal lines s11a and s12a to the signal line 16. When the first logic circuit 11 and the second logic circuit 12 are both nondefective, signals having the same value are input to the two signal lines s11a and s12a. Therefore, the H level supply source and the L level supply source are not short-circuited between the try state buffers 11b and 12b of the logic circuits 11 and 12, and hence, no supply current flows through the signal line 16 and the supply line 17a.

Alternatively, when, for example, the first logic circuit 11 is nondefective and the second logic circuit 12 is defective, signal values on the signal lines s11a and s12a are different from each other. Therefore, the H level supply source and the L level supply source are short-circuited between the two try state buffers 11b and 12b through the signal line 16, and hence, an excessive supply current flows through the signal line 16 and the supply line 17a. Accordingly, when the IDDQ testing is carried out by monitoring the supply current flowing through the supply line 17a with the current measuring unit 18, it can be determined whether the first and second logic circuits 11 and 12 of the integrated circuit 15 are defective or nondefective.

Although the testing method for the first and second logic circuits 11 and 12 alone is herein described, the testing for the other logic circuits 13 and 14 having the same operation function can be carried out in the same manner.

Therefore, when the IDDQ testing is carried out with the logic circuits 13 and 14 simultaneously operated in the second testing mode and the supply current flowing through the supply line 17a is measured with the current measuring unit 18, it can be determined whether the third and fourth logic circuits 13 and 14 are defective or nondefective.

It goes without saying that an existing bus can be used as the signal line 16 although it is separately provided in this embodiment.